Remarks

Claims 1-6, 8, 9, 12, 13, 19-21, 23, 26, and 31 were pending in the subject application. Claim 1 has been amended and claims 95 and 96 have been added. Accordingly, claims 1-6, 8, 9, 12, 13, 19-21, 23, 26, 31, 95 and 96 are currently before the Examiner.

Claims 1-6, 8-9, 12-13, 19-21, 23, 26, and 31 have been rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double-patenting as being unpatentable over claim 1-32 of copending application Serial No. 09/518,650. Attached with this amendment is a Terminal Disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(b) and 1.321(c), disclaiming, with exception, the terminal part of any patent granted on the subject application which would extend beyond the expiration date at the full statutory term defined in 35 USC 154 to 156 and 173, as presently shortened by any terminal disclaimer of copending application Serial No. 09/518,650. Accordingly, the applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double-patenting.

Claims 1-6, 8-9, 12-13, 19-21, 23, 26, and 31 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112. Claim 1 has been amended in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion to use proper antecedent basis for which Applicant wishes to express his gratitude. In particular claim 1 has been amended as follows: at line 1, to delete "of the type"; at line 7, to replace "an inner conductor" with "the inner conductor"; and at line 12, to replace "a conductive sheath" with "the conductive sheath", in order to emphasize the inner conductor, the conductive sheath, and the electrical conductor are workpieces rather than elements of the claimed electrical connector. Claim 1, at line 9, has also been amended to replace "a pointed end" with "an end". Accordingly, the applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §§ 112.

Claims 1-4, 6, 8, 19, 21, 23, 26, and 31 have been rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Wright (U.S. Patent No. 5,913,694). The Office Action states that Wright discloses an electrical connector for coupling to an electrical conductor (30) having an inner conductor (34) enclosed with an inner insulation and a generally concentric conductive sheath (32) and enclosed in an outer insulation (108), the electrical connector comprising: a housing (10,12) having an electrically conductive portion (12); an electrically conductive prong (26), wherein at least a portion

(formed by 116, 38, 120) of the prong (26) is hollow for receiving an inner conductor (34) of an electrical conductor (30); and at least one conductive clamping arm (112) connected to the electrically conductive portion (12) of the housing (10,12) and insulated from the electrically conductive prong (26), the at least one conductive clamping arm (112) each having a pointed end (102) for driving through an outer insulation (108) layer of the electrical conductor (30) and making electrical contact with a conductive sheath (32) of the electrical conductor (30) without contacting the inner conductor (34). The applicant respectively traverses this grounds for rejection.

The contact (26) disclosed in the Wright reference is not hollow for receiving an inner conductor (34). Rather, at Column 2 lines 64-65, "...contact (26) is depicted as a male contact comprising a conventional prong (36) and a conductor crimping tabs (38) ...". In addition, tabs (116) are "bent to engage wall (114) to prevent movement of the contact (26)" (see column 4, lines 65-66). Tabs (116) are not used for receiving or contacting the central conductor (34). Wright at column 2, lines 60-62 states "[t]he central conductor (34) may be electrically and mechanically connected to the contact (26) in a conventional manner such as by welding or crimping"(underline added). This is described again at column 4, lines18-20, "[t]he contact (26) is electrically and mechanically connected to the cable (30) by crimping the conductor crimping tabs (38) into engagement with the central conductor (34)"(underline added). Tabs (120) extend from contact (26) and mate with grooves (118) when the contact is inserted into the passage (22) (see column 5, lines 7-10). Accordingly, tabs (120) are unbent in order to travel in grooves (118). Tabs (38) do not provide "at least a portion of said prong is hollow for receiving the inner conductor of the electrical conductor" as recited in claim 1 of the subject application. Rather, tabs (38) must be crimped "into engagement with the central conductor (34)" (see column 4, lines 19-20) (underline added). The applicant asserts tabs (38) do not constitute a hollow portion of contact (26) for receiving the inner conductor, but, rather are just tabs to be crimped onto the inner conductor. In contrast, the electrical connector of the subject invention as claimed in claim 1 comprises a prong, wherein at least a portion of said prong is hollow for receiving the inner conductor of the electrical conductor. The subject prong receives the inner conductor without any crimping or welding. New claim 96 has been added incorporating the limitation wherein upon the hollow portion of the subject prong receiving the inner

conductor of the electrical conductor, electrical contact is made between the prong and the inner conductor of the electrical conductor.

Therefore, as the contact (26) of the Wright reference does not have a hollow portion for receiving the inner conductor of the electrical conductor, the Wright reference does not teach each and every element of the subject invention and is not a valid 35 U.S.C. § 102 references. Accordingly, the applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-4, 6, 8, 19, 21, 23, 26, and 31.

Furthermore, since the Wright reference does not teach a prong with a hollow portion for receiving the inner conductor and requires crimping or welding to achieve engagement with the inner conductor, the Wright reference requires "... the cable being adapted to be electrically connected to the contact" (column 2, lines 54-55). Where the cable is modified to expose the inner conductor of the cable, such that "[a]n end (92) of the cable (30) is trimmed in a conventional manner to expose a length of the central conductor (34)"(see column 4, lines 8-10). The subject invention does not require any modifications of the cable before the hollow part of the prong receives the inner conductor of the cable. This allows a specific embodiment of the subject invention to receive an end of the electrical conductor that is flush, such that the hollow portion of the electrically conductive prong of the subject invention penetrates the flush end of the electrical conductor as the hollow portion of the prong receives the inner conductor of the electrical conductor. New claim 95 has been added incorporating the limitation wherein the hollow portion of the electrically conductive prong penetrates the flush end of the electrical conductor as the hollow portion of the electrically conductive prong receives the inner conductor of the electrical conductor.

With regard to claim 2, Wright does not disclose at least one slit extending from a first end of the prong. Please see Figures 8A, 8B, 9A, and 9B for example of such slits in accordance with the subject invention. Claim 3 incorporates the limitation "wherein said at least one slit allows the first end of the prong to expand upon receiving an inner conductor of the electrical conductor." There are no slits in the Wright contact (26) and there is no indication that tabs (38) will expand. Furthermore, there is no need for tabs (38) to expand as tabs (38) are positioned to allow "a length of exposed conductor (34) adjacent the contact (26)"(see column 3, line 15), where tabs (38) are then crimped

into engagement with the central conductor (34).

With regard to claim 4, Wright does not disclose slits which extend a length of the hollow portion of said prong.

With regard to claim 6, there is no indication of, and no indication of, and no indication of a need for, an edge of first end of the prong is sharpened.

Again, as the Wright reference does not teach each and every limitation as claimed in claim 1, the applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-4, 6, 8, 19, 21, 23, 26, and 31 under 35 USC § 102(b).

Claim 5 has been rejected under 35 USC § 103(b) as being unpatentable over Wright (U.S. Patent No. 5,913,694). The Office Action states that with regard to Claim 5, Wright discloses the claimed invention except for an edge of the first end of the prong being beveled. The applicant respectfully asserts that Wright does not disclose the claimed invention as claimed in claim 1, as discussed above. Therefore, the applicant asserts that a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been presented. Accordingly, the applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 103.

Claims 9, 12, and 13 have been rejected under 35 USC § 103(b) as being unpatentable over Wright (U.S. Patent No. 5,913,694) in view of Horak *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 3,744,007). The Office Action states that with regard to claims 9 and 12-13, Wright discloses the claimed invention except for a means for maintaining the at least one conductive clamping arm in position, wherein once the pointed end of each of the at least one conductive clamp is driven through the outer insulation layer of the electrical conductor making the electrical contact with the conductive sheath, the means for maintaining the at least one conductive clamping arm in position is positioned to maintain the at least one conductive clamping arm in position such that the at least one conductive clamping arm maintains electrical contact with the conductive sheath and the means for maintaining the at least one conductive clamping arm in position being a threadable cap and the threadable cap comprising internal threads, which removably thread onto external threads on a housing. The applicant asserts that Wright does not disclose the subject invention as claimed in claim 1, as discussed above, and the Horak reference does not cure such defect.

The Office Action states that states that Horak *et al.* discloses an electrical connector having a means (12) for maintaining the at least one conductive clamping arm (16) in position, wherein once a pointed end (16b) of each of the at least one conductive clamp (16) is driven through an outer insulation layer (26d) of an electrical conductor (26) making electrical contact with a conductive sheath (26c), the means (12) for maintaining the at least one conductive clamping arm (16) in position is positioned to maintain the at least one conductive clamping arm (16) in position such that the at least one conductive clamping arm (16) maintains electrical contact with the conductive sheath (26c), the means (12) for maintaining the at least one conductive clamping arm (16) in position being a threadable cap (12) and the threadable cap (12) comprising internal threads (12b), which removably thread onto external threads on a housing (14). The applicant respectfully asserts that the means (12) for maintaining the at least one conductive clamping arm (16) in position disclosed in the Horak reference is not a threadable cap comprising internal threads, which removably thread onto external threads on a housing. Rather, Horak *et al.* teaches at Column 3 lines 30-42 the means for maintaining an electrical and mechanical connection is produced when "[a]fter center conductor (26a) has been inserted within the bore of lock nut (20), lock nut (20) is then threaded into the connector body (10). As the lock nut (20) is screwed into the connector body (12), the forward or leading end (28) of lock nut (20) presses against one end of cam sleeve (14), as shown in FIG. 3. As the lock nut (20) is threaded further into connector body (12), the camming surface (14b) of cam sleeve (14) will apply pressure to the inwardly flared, sharp-pointed teeth (16a) of crimping washer (16). As a result, camming surface (14b) biases crimping teeth (16a) further inwardly, through the jacket (26d) of coaxial cable (26) to contact outer conductor (26c)."

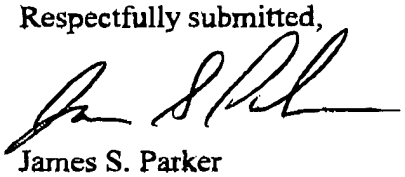
Accordingly, the applicant asserts that a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been presented. Therefore, the applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 5, 9, and 12-13 under 35 USC § 103(a).

Applicant submits that the specification and claims are now in proper form, and that this application is now in condition for allowance, which action is respectfully solicited.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees under 37 CFR 1.16 or 1.17 as required by this paper to Deposit Account 19-0065.

Applicant invites the Examiner to call the undersigned if clarification is needed on any aspect of this response, or if the Examiner believes there remains any valid ground upon which any claim in this application may be rejected subsequent to entrance of this amendment.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachments: Marked up version with changes made
Terminal Disclaimer
Petition and Fee for Extension of Time

Marked up Version Showing Changes Made

Claim 1 (Amended):

An electrical connector for coupling to an electrical conductor [of the type] having an inner conductor enclosed with an inner insulation and a generally concentric conductive sheath and enclosed in an outer insulation, said electrical connector comprising:

a housing having an electrically conductive portion;

an electrically conductive prong, wherein at least a portion of said prong is hollow for receiving [an] the inner conductor of [an] the electrical conductor; and

at least one conductive clamping arm connected to said electrically conductive portion of said housing and insulated from said electrically conductive prong, said at least one conductive clamping arm each having an [a pointed] end for driving through an outer insulation layer of the electrical conductor and making electrical contact with [a] the conductive sheath of the electrical conductor without contacting the inner conductor.